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Senate

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Here is some really good news to start our day. From Deuteronomy 31:6: *Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid . . . ; for the Lord Your God He is the one who goes with You. He will never leave or forsake you.*

Almighty God, Sovereign of our Nation and Lord of our lives, Moses' words to Joshua ring in our hearts. We claim their fear-dispelling power. You have promised to be with us today. Help us make this day one constant conversation with You. Whisper Your instructions for each challenge. We commit ourselves to be attentive. Show us Your will and way. We gratefully remember the times You helped us in the past and our hope for today and the future is renewed.

O God of courage, put steel in our spines, vision in our minds, and hope in our hearts. There are things we cannot do today without Your power and there are other things we would not even think of doing because You are present. So give us the will to say "yes" to what You clearly guide and "no" to what we know You would not bless. In the name of the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I am sorry I am a minute late. I will not make a practice of that, Mr. President. We like to start right on time.

Today the Senate will resume consideration of Senator THURMOND's amend-

ment to the substitute amendment to S. 104, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. We are still hopeful that an agreement can be reached to enable us to complete action on this important bill in a reasonable timeframe. At any rate, we will continue to go forward on it, and we are making progress. I appreciate the cooperation of Senators on both sides of this issue for their cooperation.

A cloture motion was filed last night on the committee substitute; however, if an agreement is reached, that cloture vote will, hopefully, not be necessary, and I assume it will not be. If an agreement is not reached, the cloture vote will occur on tomorrow morning.

As a reminder, under rule XXII, Senators have until 1 p.m. today in order to file first-degree amendments to the substitute amendment. Rollcall votes are possible throughout today's session of the Senate, and into the evening if necessary. I do expect some votes today, but the most important thing is to find a way to come to an amicable agreement on how to conclude this legislation. That is our focus, and, again, we are making progress in that effort. As always, Senators will be notified as to when any votes are scheduled.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 543

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 543) to provide certain protections to volunteers, nonprofit organizations, and governmental entities in lawsuits based on the activities of volunteers.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I object to further consideration of this matter at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before the able majority leader leaves the floor, would you go over once again—you said who has until 1 o'clock to file amendments?

Mr. LOTT. All Senators, under rule XXII, have until 1 o'clock to file first-degree amendments.

Mr. REID. Fine. I misunderstood.

NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT AMENDMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 104, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 104) to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Murkowski amendment No. 26, in the nature of a substitute.

Thurmond-Hollings amendment No. 27 (to amendment No. 26) to provide that the Savannah River site and Barnwell County, SC shall not be available for construction for an interim storage facility.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator WELLSTONE, I ask unanimous consent that Brian Symms, a congressional fellow on his staff, be permitted the privilege of the floor during consideration of S. 104.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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